



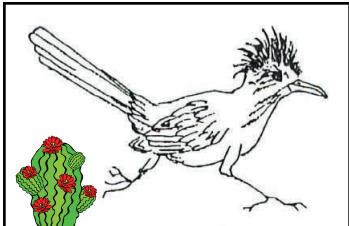
# VIP2VIP



Season 5, Volume 5

## Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

March, 2006



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Jennette is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, an area known for hardwood forests and wetlands. Jennette has an older and younger brother. At this time, Jennette has

no pets but she feels she is a "cat person". This is Jennette's first experience to live in a dry climate but she says, "I have truly fallen in love with the desert."

During her time at Big Bend, Jennette is working with Betty Alex on a rare plant study. This involves trying locate, identify, and document the placement of rare plants in various areas of the park.

Jennette spends many hours walking and "searching" for these rare plants.

In her leisure time, Jennette enjoys hiking, reading, writing and drawing. And, when funds permit, travel!

What are Jennette's plans for the future? She is interested in a career as a college professor or working for the National Park Service.

Thank you for being here, Jennette, and good luck with your future plans!



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### SCA's at Big Bend Student Conservation Association Interns

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### Spring 2006 Volunteers

#### Persimmon Gap

Joan and Jack Lamkin- Visitor Center

Joseph Webb- Visitor Center

#### Castolon

Mark Kirtley- Visitor Center

Gail Munson-new- Visitor Center

Tina and Steve Ehrman- Camp Hosts & Backcountry

Jeanne Griffin and Sam Adams-new-Camp Hosts & Backcountry

Christy Moerbe-new-SCA Visitor & Resource Protection

#### Rio Grande Village

Nancy and Ed Bump- Backcountry

Samantha Schroeder-Backcountry

Barbara and Bill Baldwin- Camp Hosts

Chris and Jim Rett-new- Camp Hosts

Denise and John Curd- Visitor Center

Marsha and Pete Coates- Visitor Center

#### Chisos Basin

Ginny and Jim Herrick- Visitor Center

Dana and Les Over- Camp Hosts

Kay and Rich Gordon- Camp Host

#### Panther Junction

Diane and Gary Frable- River

Bud Frankenberger-Resource Management

Victoria Summy- Volunteer Program Assistant

Bob Wirt- Resource Management

Bill Voegtli-Maintenance

Sarah McGregor-new-SCA Interpretation

Garrett Noyes-new-SCA Interpretation

Jennette Timmer-new-SCA Resource Management

#### Part-time

Judy Brinkerhoff- Resource Management

John Davies- Visitor Protection

Angie Dean-Interpretation

Steve Harper- Resource Management

Gail Shugart-Administration

Steve Wick- Resource Management

Reine Wonite- Emergency Services



Meet SCA **Sarah McGregor** in the Interpretive Division. Sarah is finishing her final college semester at Unity College, "America's Environmental College", Unity, Maine. Her major is ecology. Last summer Sarah had another SCA experience at Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington.

This is Sarah's first time to be at Big Bend and she is enjoying her experience here. Sarah's interpretive program is titled, "In the Night Sky".

When attending Sarah's program, you will learn that Big Bend is home to many interdependent species of

plants and animals. Among them are the 27 species of bats, the "masters of the night sky".

Future plans for Sarah are to look for positions as a National Park Service seasonal ranger and perhaps pursue graduate school.

Thank you for coming to Big Bend, Sarah, and good luck to you!



## What is SCA?

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) provides high school students, college students, and others with meaningful conservation service internships and volunteer opportunities in our National Parks, Forests, and other public lands. Each year, SCA members help to protect vital habitats, threatened wildlife, and other at-risk resources in our nation's parks, forests and urban green spaces. This unique experience instills an ethic of conservation and inspires lifelong stewardship that benefits our members, our society and our environment.

A few facts about the SCA program:

- \*National nonprofit,
- \*founded in 1957
- \*Nearly 3,000 volunteers annually
- \*Each year volunteers perform over 1.6 million hours of service
- \*Volunteers serve in all 50 states
- \*Nearly 45,000 alumni - approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  remain actively engaged As many as 60% of SCA alumni become conservation professionals following their SCA service

The SCA's at Big Bend are generally Conservation Internships. Typically Big Bend employs 4-5 SCA students for both the fall and spring seasons. More information about the SCA program can be found on the internet at [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org).



Judy & Joan



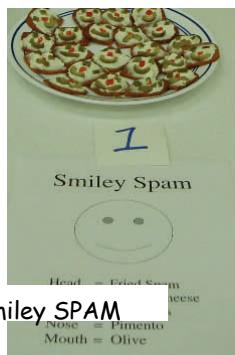
SPAM Rancheros



Cabello Muerto  
SPAMex



SPAM Scalloped  
Potatoes



Smiley SPAM

## VIP SPAMORAMA Potluck

SPAM was definitely the predominant theme of the dishes for the second annual VIP SPAMORAMA Potluck Dinner. Dishes such as SPAM Mole, Pineapple SPAM Salad, Smiley SPAM, Green Eggs & SPAM, etc. were well received by the "eaters". (and there were also some SPAM-FREE dishes) Everyone commented that the dishes this year were not only more tasty but more inventive! Thank you everyone for coming!



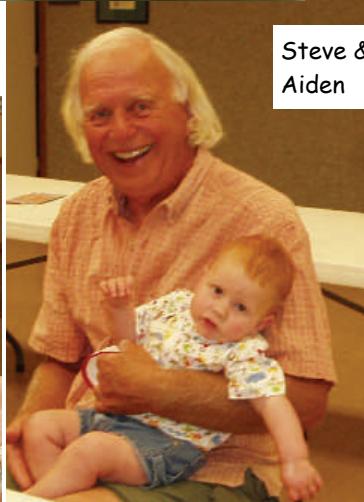
Green eggs  
& SPAM



Voting for favorites.



"Yum-SPAM!"



Steve &  
Aiden

## Boy Scout Troop 145 Volunteers for Soil Restoration Project

Coming to Big Bend National Park for a long week-end in February to volunteer is always a highlight for Boy Scout Leader, Guy Barrows and his boy scouts from Cibolo, Texas.



This year the 7 boy scouts and 4 adults volunteered over 44 hours for a soil restoration project in the North Rosilles. This area of Big Bend National Park has been the site of restoration projects for the past two years. The goal is to reseed the bare areas caused by erosion and control further erosion from run-off. The boy scouts pictured on the left are preparing the soil by first raking the soil. The next step is to use the hydro mulcher and seed the area. The last step is to



cover the newly seeded area with brush for protection from the intense sun and prevent evaporation. This 3-step process is very labor intensive and an ongoing project for the Resource Management Division of the park. Although this is very hard work, the boys and adults kept their enthusiasm for the project and all felt personal satisfaction at the end of their project time.

Pictured to the right is VIP Bob Wirt giving instructions for using the hydro mulcher.



The boy scouts and leaders camped at backcountry site Nine Point Draw. After completing their volunteer hours the group took time for fun and explored Devils Den the last day they were here. For many of the boy scouts this is an outdoor experience they will treasure for years to come. Leader Guy Barrows said, "We had a great trip and it is always hard for me to leave Big Bend."

Thank you for your contributions to Big Bend National Park, Troop 145 from Cibolo, Texas!

## Sierra Club Makes Contribution to Reclaim the Rosillos at Big Bend

During the week of March 5-11, 2006, the Sierra Club celebrate their twelfth consecutive year of service projects at Big Bend National Park , and their tenth year of "reclaiming the Rosillos." Between 2002 and 2004 the Sierra Club removed more than 25 miles of telephone poles and telephone line! If you could see the locations of some of these poles and line -- several miles from any road, dirt or otherwise -- it's not hard to see what a testament these 10-plus years are to the dedication and passion of the Sierra Club volunteer crew. The year 10 women and 9 men, 3 cooks and leader, James Moody, were the dedicated Sierra Club volunteers.

From a base camp at the foot of a limestone escarpment in the Harte Ranch area near the park airstrip, the group hiked or carpooled to the work sites each day. Resource Management Rangers Don Corrick and Jeff Bennett, and VIP Bob Wirt gave instruction and supervised safe work practices to assist the Sierra Club on their projects.



Although the weather conditions of high heat and strong winds this year were less than ideal, the Sierra Club group did complete most of their project goals. The first project was removing a fence line that was badly tangled with creosote, mesquite, and tasajillo (an especially nasty pencil cholla). The second project was removing two-four strands of barbed wire and chicken wire to open up this prime wildlife area of the Rosillos for antelope habitat. The final project was working on revegetation of bare areas to encourage the growth of grasses in the Rosilles.

The group hiked to various places in Big Bend to explore on their "day off". One group went to the South Rim, another group to Mule Ear Springs, Castolon, and Ernst Tinaja, another group to the Window Trail and the fourth group hiked to a canyon near the Harte Ranch.



Big Bend National Park management and resource personnel appreciate the generosity and help of these dedicated volunteers who have a love of the Chihuahuan desert country.

We look forward to your return in 2007!



### In Memoriam

In memoriam to Bernie Sampo, we would like to share the many contributions of this volunteer and his wife, Ingrid Sampo. As many of you may know, Bernie died recently while enroute back to Minnesota for medical treatment.

Before retiring, Bernie was a mechanic, inspector and supervisor for Northwest Airlines for 37 years. Ingrid worked in Public Relations and fundraising for non-profit organizations. They hail from Lakeville, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis.

This was the second year for the Sampos to return as volunteers at Big Bend NP, having been here in 2004. Bernie loved volunteering in the Big Bend Auto Shop. If you observed Bernie while at work, it was apparent that he was the happiest when he was troubleshooting anything mechanical. When working in the auto shop, Bernie took the responsibility to service the many park vehicles and repair vehicle tires. Dan Muntean gave this compliment about Bernie, "He was a good mechanic who could work independently and get the job done right." It is the feeling that Bernie's last day in the auto shop was a very happy one for him. He was reluctant to leave the park but realized he needed medical care.

Ingrid volunteered in the Big Bend Interpretive Library. Her contributions to the library included accession and preparation of new books for circulation, organizing magazine articles and documents and other library services that were invaluable to the park staff. Other divisions where Ingrid gave volunteer hours were recycling, Maintenance, Resource Management and Fire.

The entire Big Bend Staff and Volunteers express our appreciation to the many contributions made by Bernie Sampo and his wife Ingrid. You may wish to contact Ingrid at:

Ingrid Sampo  
16753 Garland Way West

### CALENDAR

**March 22 Wednesday Volunteer Award**  
**Banquet 6:30 PJ Community Room.**  
**Pizza Party and Awards**

**March 27-31-San Vincente School**  
**Scholastic Book Sale.** See  
PJ bulletin board for times.

**April 6-Thursday Volunteer Potluck**  
Around the World Dishes  
Bring your favorite ethnic or family dish to share-such as Swedish meatball, Tex-Mex Stew, etc. Remember your table service and drink.  
6:30 PJ Community Room



### Ongoing:

**Crafts-Tuesday nights, 6:30pm**  
PJ Community Room  
**Big Bend Community Choir-Wednesdays,**

5:30pm, Music room at  
Terlingua School. For information call Patricia 434-3208

Check the bulletin board at PJ for details and updates on other events. community events!

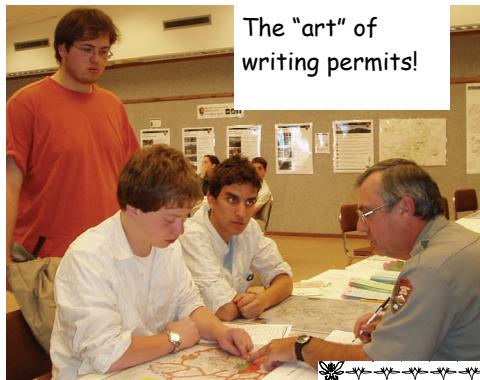
### In Sympathy

The Big Bend staff and volunteers express their sympathy to Jim and Ginny Herrick, volunteers at the Chisos Basin Visitor Center, on the death of their son, Kevin.

A memorial is being established in Kevin's name to North Cascades Conservation Council. Condolences and/or contributions may be sent to:

Jim & Ginny Herrick  
3037 Hillrise Drive  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011  
tel: 505-532-1595

Jim Rett was ready for all the campground challenges at Rio Grande Village!



Chris Rett checks campsites and reservations at Rio Grande Village campground.



Vicky Summy waits for visitors on a trail.

## SPRING BREAK Frenzy!



SCA Garret Noyes gets ready for his interpretive program.



Clockwise: Ginny Herrick, Gail Munson, John Curd and Jack & Joan Lampkin greet the many visitors at Big Bend Visitor Centers.



### VIP Reimbursement Process.. (or how can I get my \$\$)

Please turn in your reimbursement sheet at least one week prior to leaving the park.

\*Fill out the yellow form "Claim for Reimbursement for Volunteer Expense", sign, date & attach receipts with vendor's name & address. Cash register receipts must be marked "PAID".

\*Send the form to Angelina Yost

\*Wait 1 week for the paperwork to be processed.

\* At your next trip to Panther Junction, please see Terry Boren (or Susan Simmons if Terry is not in the office). M-F, 8-5 You will NOT be notified that the check is ready, you must come to Panther Junction.  
Thank you!